Message Text

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2.1

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /034 W 024334

R 141145Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3390

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

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ROME FOR RCAA DWOR

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, NP

SUBJ: EXPANSION PLANS OF NEPAL AIRLINES

1. AFTER A LENGTHY PERIOD OF STRONG RUMORS, ROYAL NEPAL AIRLINES CORPORATION (RNAC) IS FINALLY OPENLY ADMITTING THAT A DEFINITE DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO PURCHASE AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL JET. FROM COMMENTS MADE BY GENERAL MANAGER D.B. RANA, THE SELECTION MOST PROBABLY WILL BE A BOEING 707 REPEAT 707. THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO BUY NEW FROM BOEING OR SECOND-HAND FROM ANOTHER AIRLINE IS TO BE MADE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. AN EXPANDED MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH AIR WEST, WITH WHOSE PERFORMANCE RNAC HAS BEEN "MOST SATISFIED," IS ALSO A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY.

2. THIS PROCUREMENT IS CLOSELY LINKED TO THE OPENING OF NEW RNAC INTERNATIONAL ROUTES. UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION ARE HONG KONG, KARACHI AND KABUL. (ALTHOUGH RANA WOULD NOT ADMIT, ANOTHER POSSIBILITY SEEMS TO BE TEHRAN.)
CONFIRATION OF NEW ROUTES IS EXPECTED WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS. CARGO
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: AIRCRAFT SALES, JET AIRCRAFT

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KATHMA04928

Document Number: 1975KATHMA04928 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D750398-0740 From: KATHMANDU Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751142/aaaablre.tel Line Count: 60

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 06 JUN 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EXPANSION PLANS OF NEPAL AIRLINES

TAGS: EAIR, NP, RNAC To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006